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# What's NEWS

Vol. 5, No. 2, Sept. 10, 1984

@ Rhode  
Island  
College

*Journal-Bulletin's Patinkin addresses convocation:*

## Columnist's humor tickles class of '88

by Laurence J. Sasso, Jr.

"Ask your parents for money as often as possible."

This is the first rule for college freshmen to learn according to Mark Patinkin, columnist for the *Providence Evening*

*Bulletin*. Patinkin's advice, delivered with a deadpan expression, was among the less serious admonitions offered to the RIC class of 1988 at the convocation for new students held Sept. 5 at 2 p.m. in Roberts

Hall Auditorium.

Patinkin was the featured speaker at the annual rite which also heard remarks from Gary M. Penfield, vice president for student affairs; Danielle Marcotte, president of the class of 1987; Thomas Falcone, president of RIC's Student Community Government and Willard Enteman, provost and vice president for academic affairs. RIC President Dr. David E. Sweet served as master of ceremonies.

Penfield spoke first telling the new students that "we are delighted that you have chosen to invest your energies in Rhode Island College.

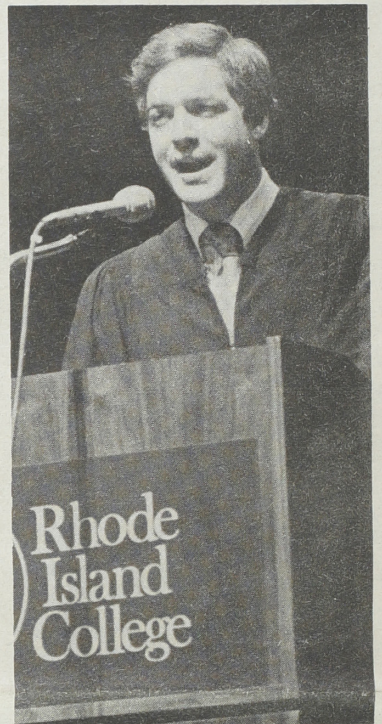
"Get to know and talk with each of your professors," he advised.

Marcotte told her fellow students they should "be strong enough to take a step away from the friendships of high school and make new ones (at RIC)."

Falcone said, "You have to get out there and find the people and activities that are right for you."

Patinkin, whose talk elicited sustained laughter several times from the assembled body of new students which nearly filled Roberts Hall Auditorium, held the attention of everyone present with quips and anecdotes. His unsmiling delivery contrasted with his material and served only to underscore the humor by intensifying the irony of his remarks.

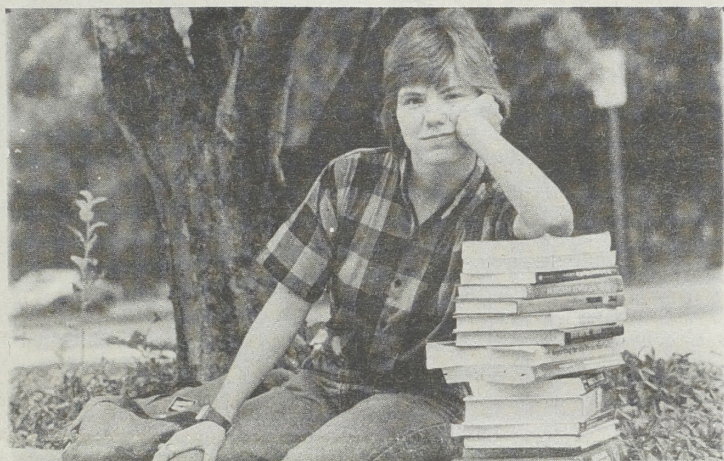
A 1974 graduate of Middlebury College, Patinkin has been a columnist for the



Mark Patinkin

*Bulletin* since 1979. He has been with the *Journal-Bulletin* papers as a reporter since 1976.

(continued on page 4)



Gayle Cormier

## Heading for a first!

by George LaTour

The winner and still champion...Gayle Cormier, the 20-year-old double major from North Smithfield!!!

If one were announcing the results of the continuing contest for the Ronald Ballinger Scholarship at Rhode Island College, he or she might be tempted to do so with all the excitement or histrionics of the prize ring at the conclusion of a title bout.

But Miss Cormier's "opponent" is herself, since she has long vanquished her competition. She now quietly wages a dedicated battle with the books day after day and night after night in the quest for excellence. The excitement is imperceptible, albeit growing daily in both Miss Cormier and RIC's President David E. Sweet as both wait for the months to pass and the marks to come in.

If Miss Cormier maintains her grades at the current level (no lower than 3.5 average out of a possible 4.0) for the remainder of this, her senior year, she'll retire "undefeated," as the parlance goes, as an undergraduate student with the title of "Ballinger Scholar" affixed to her name in the record books—the FIRST Ballinger Scholar to graduate (and probably the last).

Gayle, a daughter of Joseph and Gloria Cormier with whom she resides, was the first winner of the Ballinger Scholarship in the fall of 1982—a year before the General Education Honors Program was in effect. With a perfect 4.0 scholastic average in the general education core courses, she garnered the \$1,000 prize.

A year later when the honors program was firmly established, the Ballinger Scholarship evolved into the Bacon-Ballinger Scholarships, \$500 awards to each of 10 top incoming freshmen who have been accepted into the General Education Honors Program. The awards, funded by the RIC Foundation, are renewable annually.

Hence, the Ballinger Scholarship as such, established before the honors program, has remained in effect since 1982 only for Miss Cormier who is not in the honors program, and only if she qualifies each year.

She repeated her performance with a perfect or near-perfect scholastic average again in 1983, and yet again in 1984. Her hopes are high for the academic year ending in 1985. With a quiet resolve befitting a scholar, she is already bending to the task of superior academic performance.

Gayle is a graduate of North Smithfield Junior-Senior High School where she was salutatorian of the Class of 1982. She received high school credit for the senior year while attending RIC as a freshman in the college's Early Enrollment Program.

At RIC she majors in history and political science.

She was very pleased with the Early Enrollment Program which she termed "a good idea," saying that "it gives you a chance to do advanced work." She feels she would have had "a problem finding (interesting and challenging) courses in her senior year in high school."

Overall, she is also quite pleased with the program of study in the General Education Program, but wishes there could be "some seminars (for non-honors program students) which would give the students a chance to exchange ideas."

As she begins her senior year, Gayle is giving considerable thought to what will follow graduation. At this point she's considering graduate school for advanced studies in history, and would like to gain acceptance for graduate work at a school in the San Francisco area.

"This fits in with what I'm interested in...the American counter culture in the 1960s," says Gayle. And, after that, she "might get a Ph.D. and become a teacher and writer."

With a perfect scholastic average (or close to it), RIC's Gayle Cormier should have few difficulties!

See next week's *What's News* for a full report on this year's scholarship winners.)

## Enrollment dips in keeping with trend says dean

As classes resumed at Rhode Island College on Sept. 4, there were fewer students in the newcomer category.

The dip in enrollment of new students came as no surprise to anyone involved with admissions at the college.

Following last year's record-setting enrollment of freshmen and transfer students, trend watchers at RIC were expecting a lower total of new students trend.

"Our average for the last three years has been approximately 1,030 (freshmen)," said John Nissen, dean of admissions at the college.

This year there are 950 freshmen enrolled. Last year's class, which set a record and which saw applications closed off, consisted of 1,080 freshmen.

Transfer student enrollment, by contrast,

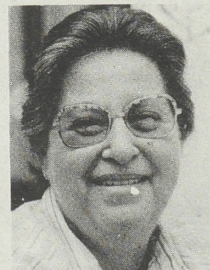
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## Cited for teaching, service



George Hartmann

*Distinguished Teaching*



Frances Benson

*Distinguished Service*

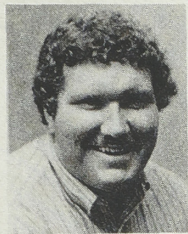
Rhode Island College Faculty of Arts and Sciences has bestowed its annual Paul Maixner Distinguished Teaching Award and the award for distinguished service for the 1984-85 academic year to Dr. George C. Hartmann of the biology department and Mrs. Frances Benson of the nursing department, respectively.

Each was awarded a plaque and honorarium by Dean David L. Greene in ceremonies at the opening convocation of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences August 31.

In addition, winners of the awards will have the option of attending a regional or national conference in their respective

(continued on page 4)





## Keeping Score

with Dave Kemmy

### Athletics on the move

The RIC Athletic Department, after a successful 1983-84 sports year, is set to repeat the fine team and individual performances in 1984-85.

Traditionally, the fall sports set the tone for success and for what can be expected the rest of the season.

The fall sports program consists of five squads, three for the women and two for the men. The women's tennis team, under the direction of Coach Rusty Carlsten finished 12-1 last season and looks to have another fine season in 1984. Several key performers return, including the top two players from last season, Sue Landry and Cheryl Serras.

The women's cross country squad also had a fine year last season, finishing at 22-8. Coach Charley Sweeney also had the first female All-American in RIC history in AnnMarie Gower. Gower placed 22nd at the NCAA Division III Nationals. This season the squad returns Sharon Hall, Debbie Jamieson and Ana Contreras, all top performers from last season.

The women's volleyball team had a rebuilding year last season and new Head Coach Kristen Norberg looks for solid improvement this season. Norberg, who was the assistant coach last season, returns several fine performers from last year's 9-24 squad, including Kim Allen, AnnMarie Esposito and Martha Sylvia.

On the men's side, new Head Soccer Coach Tony Tribelli brings a wealth of soccer knowledge and experience to the program.

Tribelli is a former high school coach and referee in Rhode Island. He has served as a coach for 11 years and as a referee for 30 years. Tribelli has 10 letter-winners

returning, including tri-captains Roy Borges, Mario Realejo and Ahmet Ozdemir. The squad, which finished 3-10-3 last season also has seven promising freshmen who should help.

The men's cross country squad under Charley Sweeney finished 9-12 last season. The squad has its top two runners returning in Captain Mike Pesare and sophomore Mark Cousineau, but Sweeney will have to rely heavily on 13 freshmen and sophomores for the rest of the squad's scoring.

The soccer squad was scheduled to open their season Sept. 4 against the URI Rams and were slated to play their first home game, Wednesday, Sept. 12, against Stonehill. The women's tennis team opened up Sept. 8 at Westfield and their first home match will be against Salve Regina on Sept. 12.

The men's and women's cross country squads open on Sept. 15. The men harriers face Bryant, while the women harriers face Stonehill. Both are home meets on the RIC course. The women's volleyball squad starts their season Tuesday, Sept. 18, when they entertain Eastern Nazarene and Brown University.

The athletic teams would greatly appreciate your support during the 84-85 campaign.

It is my pleasure to replace Kathy Feldmann as the Sports Information Director and to serve the RIC community, alumni and friends as the main source of athletic information. I have tried in this column to inform you of as much of what's going on as possible. I look forward to continuing this service throughout the year.

## New directions

by R. N. Keogh, Director  
Bureau of Grants and Sponsored Projects

For most academics, the spirit of rededication, resolution, and renewal is rekindled far more in September than at any other time of the year. If the enthusiasm of the season prompts you toward development of that special project you have been considering, be assured of our sincere interest.

The Bureau has moved to a new, more spacious location in Roberts 312 (formerly occupied by Bill Swigart of Continuing Education). Why not drop by to discuss funding possibilities for your project?

Last year the Bureau's periodic column in *What's News* discussed the services and responsibilities of the Bureau, introduced a few basic principles of grantsmanship, described some of the principal agencies awarding grants to RIC, and listed agency Requests for Proposals (RFPs) which were of potential interest to a number of faculty and staff.

RFP announcements will continue to be published in this column and, where more appropriate, be supplemented by direct mailings to department chairs and individual college personnel.

This year our articles will take a somewhat different tack. Some will inform about on-going grant-related developments in federal, state, or private agencies that are of particular concern to the college. Others will highlight the work of faculty and staff who currently are conducting externally funded projects.

Many people, even close colleagues, are often unaware of the high quality sponsored research and special projects being conducted here at the college. There is much about sponsored projects of our people that is heady stuff—exciting, intriguing, resourceful, valuable—as subsequent articles in this series will demonstrate.

### RIC to participate in:

## Victim's Rights Conference

Rhode Island College will participate in and co-sponsor the state Attorney General's Conference on Victims of Crime to be held at the State House lounge on Sept. 17 and 18.

As part of that conference, RIC's Department of Sociology and College Lectures Committee will bring Constance Noblet, executive director of Victim Witness Services of Chester County, Pa., and president of the National Organization of Victim Assistance (NOVA) out of Washington, D.C., to the college on Monday, Sept. 17, to speak on "Victims: Families and Stress" at 4 p.m. in the Faculty Center.

The public is invited to the two-day conference (both at the State House and RIC) free of charge.

Co-sponsors of the conference, in addition to RIC, are the state Department of Elderly Affairs, the Governor's Justice Commission, and the Justice Resource Corporation.

Schedule of events for Sept. 17 is:

9 a.m.—Welcome by Gov. J. Joseph Garrahy.

9:10—Opening remarks by Attorney General Dennis J. Roberts

9:30—The Federal Role in Victim Assistance with George Brady, director of the Victim Task Force of the federal Department of Justice.

10:30—Rhode Island's Victims Rights and Victim Compensation Acts, a panel discussion with audience participation.

1 p.m.—Domestic Violence (Spousal and Child Abuse and Sexual Assault, a panel discussion with audience participation.

2:45—Restitution, a panel discussion with audience participation.

4 p.m.—Victims: Families and Stress with Constance Noblet at RIC Faculty Center.

Sept. 18: 9 a.m.—Opening remarks by Jonathan Houston, executive director, Justice Resource Corporation.

9:15—State and Local Responses to the Needs of Victims with Constance Noblet, president of NOVA.

10:30—Victimization of the Elderly with Anna Tucker, director of the state Department of Elderly Affairs.

1 p.m.—Criminal Dispositions (Speed, Trials, Plea Bargaining, Sentencing Practices), Balancing the Rights of Victims and Defendants, a panel discussion with audience participation.

2:45 p.m.—Community Release (Diversion, Bail and Parole), Protecting the Public without Unnecessary Incarceration, a panel discussion with audience participation.

4:30—Adjourn.

prior to Nov. 6.

"The radio spots will be a mix of 10, 30 and 60 second spots in all likelihood," Foley said.

Final element in the planned media mix calls for newspaper exposure.

"We plan to secure coverage in the daily and weekly newspapers throughout the state," Foley noted.

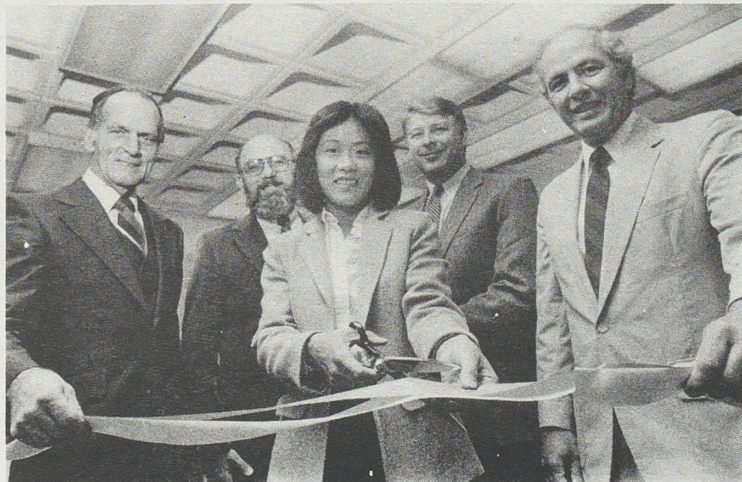
A graphic image (logo) has been designed and will be used to call attention to the referendum.

"The media segment of the campaign is one element of the overall strategy to win voter support," observed Foley,

citing other efforts which are contemplated.

"For instance we are producing a brochure, we plan a direct mail effort, we are looking at speaking engagements, we're working on the development of a cable-TV public service spot with the assistance of Jim Davis of the RIC department of instructional technology, and we are seeking personal and political endorsements," Foley said.

A number of other activities which will "raise the consciousness of the electorate are being considered as well," according to Foley.



**RIBBON CUTTING** for the opening of the new branch of the Rhode Island Employees Credit Union in RIC's Student Union is done by Betty Chartier, branch manager, while RIC's Bill Chapman, Brian Allen, Jan Kubik and John Fitta join in the ceremony last Wednesday.

## PAC formed: Bond issue push continues



**What's  
News  
@  
Rhode  
Island  
College**

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### DEADLINE

Deadline for submission of copy and photos is **TUESDAY at 4:30 p.m.**

Tel. 456-8132

Production by  
**BEACON  
PRESS**

A political action committee (PAC) has been officially organized to gather voter support for referendum number four. The question calls for \$2.2 million to pay for the conversion of Rhode Island College's Whipple Gymnasium into a center for industrial and business technology.

John S. Foley, RIC's vice president for Advancement and Support, is spearheading the college's campaign to win voter approval. He announced formation of the PAC and he disclosed some of the plans being made to publicize the project to the voters.

"The name of the political action committee will be Alumni and Friends of Rhode Island College," said Foley.

Noreen M. Andreoli of Barrington, president of the RIC Alumni Association, will be chair; Vice chair will be Dr. Renato E. Leonelli of Providence, professor emeritus of elementary education and president of the RIC Foundation.

Dr. John Ruggiano of Cranston, a RIC alumnus, will be serving as secretary and Foley is the treasurer.

A PAC is defined by the general laws of the state of Rhode Island and is required when a campaign is mounted in support of a candidate or a ballot question. This is the first time a PAC has been formed by RIC proponents of a bond issue referendum.

"The next element is to complete the development of a 'media mix' for promotion of the bond issue," Foley pointed out.

"This is going along quite smoothly," he added.

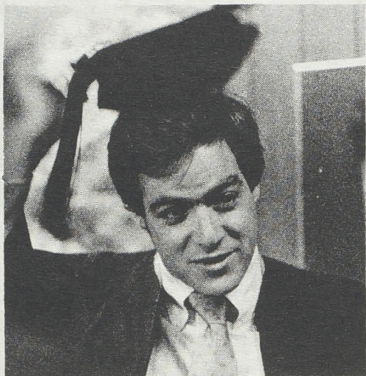
The PAC has received proposals from Channels 6, 10 and 12 that will result in approximately 90 commercial spots to be aired during the week preceding the election, Foley explained.

"These will probably be 10 and 30 second spots. That's what we are looking at," said Foley.

"In addition, we are well on our way to signing agreements for advertisements on radio with major state and local stations."

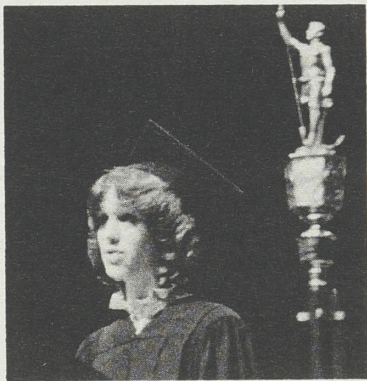
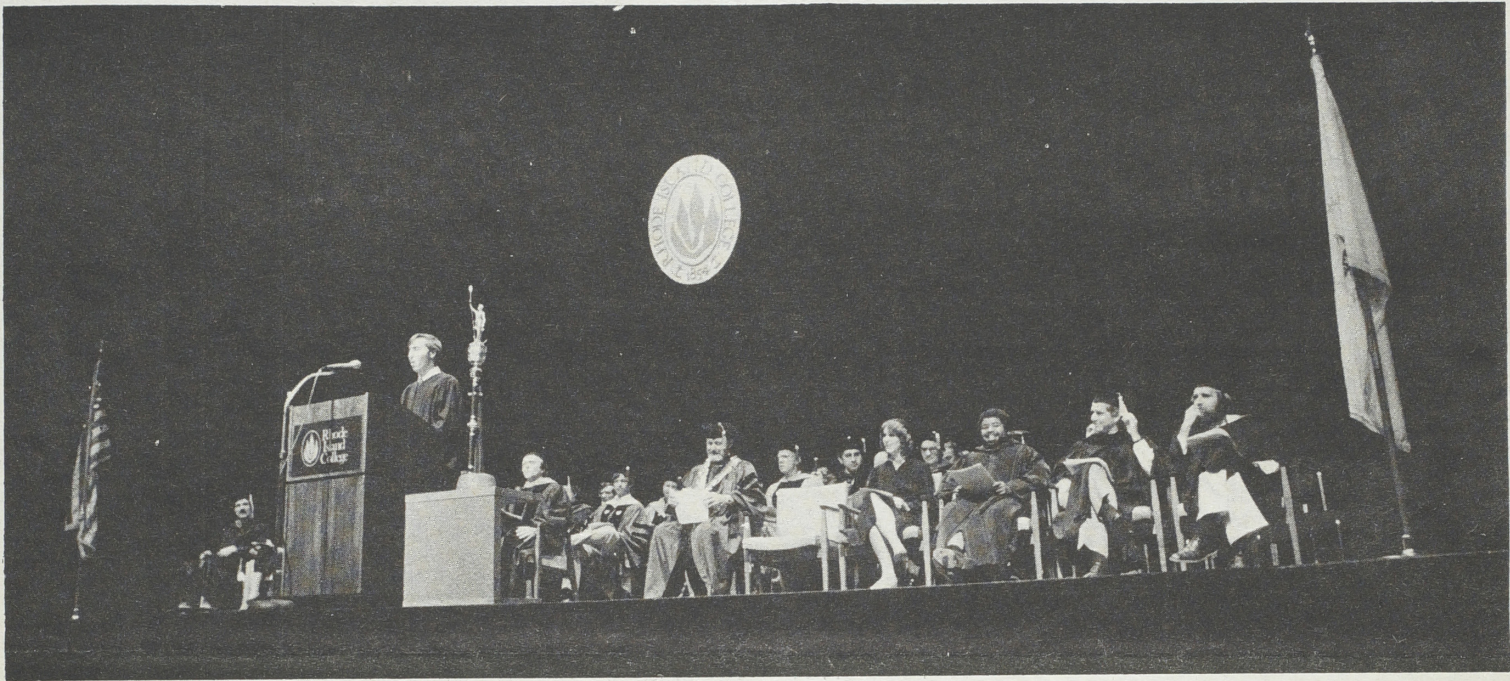
The plan which the PAC has developed calls for two weeks of radio exposure



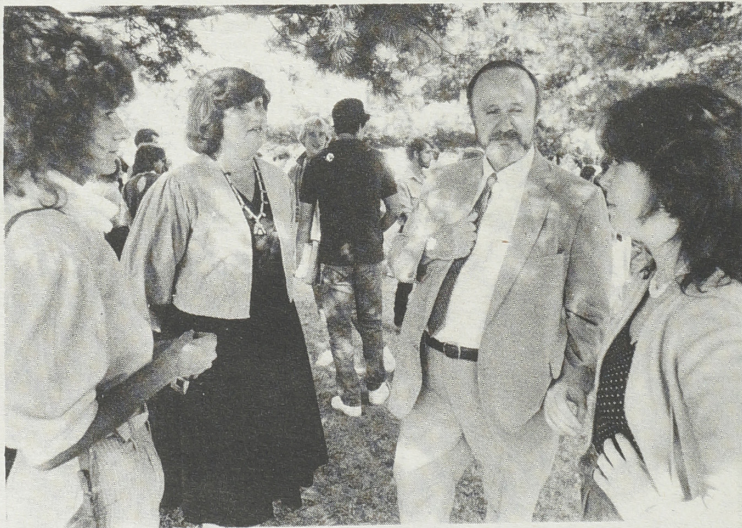


# New Student Convocation

DONNING HIS CAP for the New Student Convocation Wednesday is *Providence Journal-Bulletin* columnist Mark Patinkin who was the featured speaker. Below, Thomas Falcone, president of the Student Community Government addresses the Class of 1988.



A WORD FROM the Class of 1987 is given the new students by Danielle Marcotte, president of the Class of '87. Below left, Jeanna Di Padua of Coventry and Kara McCluskie of Pawtucket do a little socializing at the reception which followed the convocation. Below right, President and Mrs. Arlene Sweet chat with Jill Surkont (left) and Diane O'Gorman, both of Pawtucket.





★ HUMOR

(continued from page 1)

"Brown University had Eugene Ionesco. You've got me. That's what happens when you don't have to pay \$13,000 per year in tuition," he told the RIC audience, referring to himself as the "generic brand" of convocation speaker.

"I feel like Buddy Cianci addressing a support group for battered boyfriends," he said.

He also advised the students not to play academic roulette, guessing what areas the professors will quiz them on and only studying those areas.

"If you don't have time to read the whole book, however," he suggested, "read the first chapter and be certain to be the first person to raise your hand. Make some sort of comment about the first chapter and hope that the professor won't call on you again."

If, however, he or she thinks that your comment indicated originality and a deeper interest, there may be a question about chapter 19, Patinkin said.

In the event that that should happen the student need not panic. Simply say, "I think chapter 19 makes its own quiet statement," he told the highly amused new students.

Pointing out that he had agreed to make at least one serious observation when he was invited by the college administration to speak, Patinkin reflected on what he would have liked a convocation speaker to have told him when he was a freshman.

Noting that the freshman convocation may be more important than commencement, Patinkin spoke to the attentive audience about what they might contribute to society.

Describing the materialistic goals which seem to have motivated many recent college graduates, Patinkin did not criticize a desire to attain a comfortable standard of living. However, he suggested that such a motivation was not enough.

★ ENROLLMENT

(continued from page 1)

has increased by 10 students this fall with 800 new transfers as compared to 790 last fall.

"The enrollment is a reflection of the decline in the number of high school graduates," observed Nissen. "It wasn't anything we didn't expect."

The dean went on to point out that this year's crop of new students include a freshman class which is composed of "two-thirds women" and a transfer class which is 55 percent women.

"The college continues to enroll about seven percent minority students with this year's new student population registering a slight increase," Nissen noted.

The dean was unable to give a specific figure since data is still being compiled, but he reports that there is an increase in the number of out-of-state students at the college in the new class. Most of these students are from the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) communities in

"If you don't have a greater goal you begin to run out of steam," he said.

He told the students that it is necessary to have "a thing," a cause.

"I call it some kind of vision. My message isn't to urge you toward activism. It is to urge you toward involvement."

Patinkin cited the lives of the Kennedy family, their attempts to influence and change society for what they believed was the good.

"It's not just what you're doing but why you do it," he said.

The columnist closed with a candid assessment of his profession, saying that journalism is too negative. His own motive for becoming a columnist, he confided, was to be able to seek out examples of integrity and commitment and tell his readers of them. He is always on the lookout for positive stories, he told the audience.

He exhorted the class of 1988 at Rhode Island College to be the kind of people he wants to write about.

"I'll be looking for you," he finished.

Final speaker of the day was Provost Enteman who advised the students that "you have to know yourself, know who you are and what your are, before you can reach out to others in your life."

Enteman suggested that each student take one hour each week to be alone and to ask him or herself some questions. He told them to ask themselves if they liked who they were.

"Do you like being alone with yourself," he asked rhetorically. "If you don't, no one else will like being alone with you."

He admonished the new students to remember "it's your life and no one else's."

The assembled new students closed the convocation by singing the RIC Alma Mater for the first time in their undergraduate careers.

A reception followed on the southeast lawn of Roberts Hall under the campus pines.

Massachusetts which border Rhode Island.

"There is real diversity in the class. We have people with extraordinarily diverse interests and we have some very talented students," said Nissen.

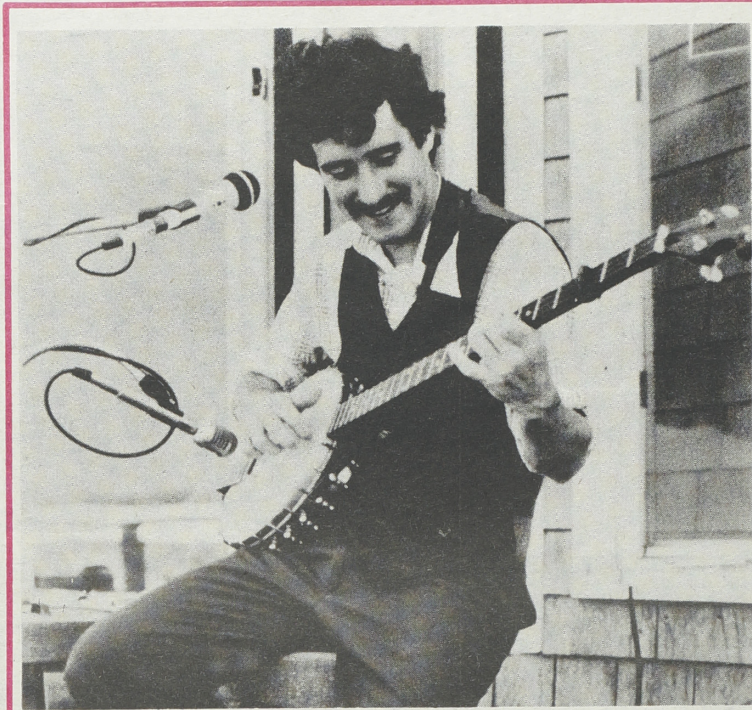
"The large number of transfer students is a real telling and positive thing about the college," added the dean. "Some of these are people who began other places, perhaps thinking the grass was greener, but who have discovered that RIC is a fine place."

Nissen related that the performance-based admissions program will matriculate about 150 adult students who will be degree candidates for the first time. These students are non-traditional, having been out of school at least five years. They take courses prior to being accepted as degree candidates to prove their ability to do college level work.

Fifteen new students were admitted to the college's honors program to bring the total number in that program to about 50, Nissen pointed out.

for a full report on the Distinguished Teacher and Distinguished Service Award winners in the Schools of Education and Human Development and Social Work.)

Hartmann, a professor of biology, is a graduate of Harvard College. He holds a master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Ph.D.



Ed Sweeney

Folksinger set for Sept. 12:

Chamber Series leads with Ed Sweeney

Ed Sweeney, a Providence-based folk-singer who boasts a repertoire of 250 songs, will be the first performer in the Rhode Island College Music Department's fall chamber series. Sweeney will appear Sept. 12 at 2 p.m. in Roberts Hall, room 138.

A fulltime performer since 1979, Sweeney has appeared at colleges, coffeehouses and pubs in the East, Midwest and Canada.

His experiences include a stint working on an old style riverboat and he has worked before outdoor audiences, on radio, and as an opening act for major concerts, according to a publicity flyer.

Sweeney has described his technique as "finger-style ragtime." He plays a number of different instruments when he performs. Among them are six-and-12-string guitars, five-string and fretless banjos, the concertina, the

autoharp and an Australian largerphone.

His approach to a show is such that an audience might find him working his songs around a given theme or they might hear a potpourri of Scott Joplin rags, Beatles tunes, blues, mountain banjo or guitar instrumentals, work songs, sea songs, nonsense songs and songs from the past as well as the present.

According to his press clippings, Sweeney uses humor and informal banter to involve his audiences in the performance. One review tabbed him, not unkindly, as a "singer of obscure songs."

Sweeney has cut one album on the Old Harbour label. It is called *The Times, They Are Something Like They Used To Be*.

The chamber series offerings are free and open to the general public as well as the RIC community.

For more information call 456-8244.

from the University of Rhode Island.

He had taught biology in Scarsdale High School, New York, and was a graduate teaching assistant at Purdue University where he had taken further graduate studies, majoring in mycology.

He joined the RIC faculty in 1958 and had served for one semester in 1966 as acting chairman of the biology department.

He has won numerous academic honors. Among his professional affiliations are membership in the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the Mycological Society of America, the Botanical Society of America and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He has also published a number of scholarly works.

Hartmann and his wife, Lorraine, reside

in Greenville. They have three children.

Mrs. Benson is a registered nurse with a bachelor's degree in nursing from Simmons College and a master's in rehabilitation nursing from Boston University.

She had been an assistant instructor and clinical instructor at Roger Williams General Hospital, and staff development instructor at Miriam Hospital prior to joining the RIC faculty in 1975.

She currently holds the rank of assistant professor of nursing.

Among her professional affiliations, she holds membership in the Rhode Island State and American Nurses Associations and the National League for Nursing.

Mrs. Benson and her husband, Frank, reside in Seekonk. They have five children.

★ CITED

(continued from page 1)

discipline sponsored by the dean.

Hartmann and Benson were cited for having distinguished themselves and the college with their excellent teaching/service.

See an up-coming issue of What's News

Calendar of Events  
Sept. 10 - Sept. 17

MONDAY TO THURSDAY, SEPT. 10-13			11 a.m.	Women's Cross Country. RIC vs. Stonehill College. Home.
Noon	Mass. Student Union, Room 304.		1 p.m.	Women's Tennis. RIC vs. Quinnipiac College. Away.
MONDAY, SEPT. 10 to FRIDAY, SEPT. 21			2 p.m.	Men's Soccer. RIC vs. Fitchburg State College. Away.
RIC Art Department Faculty Show. Exhibition of works by faculty.			SUNDAY, SEPT. 16	
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12			10 a.m.	Sunday Mass. Student Union, Ballroom.
2 to 3 p.m.	Cooperative Education Program. General Information Workshop. Gaige Hall, 2nd Floor.		7 p.m.	Sunday Evening Mass. Browne Hall's Upper Lounge.
2 to 3 p.m.	Chamber Music Series. A folk recital by Ed Sweeney, a Providence-based folk singer. Roberts Hall, Room 138.		MONDAY, SEPT. 17	
3:30 p.m.	Women's Tennis. RIC vs. Salve Regina. Home.		Noon	Mass. Student Union, Room 304.
3:30 p.m.	Men's Soccer. RIC vs. Stonehill College. Home.		MONDAY, SEPT. 17	
SATURDAY, SEPT. 15			4 p.m.	Atty. Gen.'s Conference on Victims of Crime. "Victims: Families and Stress" by Constance Noblet, president on the National Organization of Victim's Assistance. Faculty Center—south dining area.
10 a.m.	Men's Cross Country. RIC vs. Bryant College. Home.			